

March 3, 2022

Dear Co-Chairs Cohen and Gresko, Vice-Chairs Slap and Palm, Ranking Members Miner and Harding, and members of the Environment Committee,

I live in Manchester. I'm writing to ask you to support Raised House Bill 5291, An Act Authorizing Bonding for Bikeways, Greenways and Recreational Trails. This important bill would increase the bond authorization for the Recreational Trails and Greenways Grants program to \$6 million. As you may be aware, in the Fall of 2021, DEEP issued a request for recreational trails proposals with only \$3 million available, and received 65 applications requesting over \$22 million. The \$3 million was granted to twenty worthy projects, but another \$7 million in highly ranked proposals were unable to be funded, and we expect the ongoing need for investments in Connecticut's outdoor recreation infrastructure to continue.

Being an avid bike trail user, I would like to see the Hop River Trail extension in Manchester funded. If completed, the 18 mile Rotary in Motion loop ride on portions of the Hop River State Park Trail, Charter Oak Greenway and Cheney Rail Trail would be complete. The loop when completed would place the vast majority of Manchester's residents within 2 miles of the loop trail. Recreational trails are so important for all ages to get outside and get some exercise. And they are especially important for kids and those not comfortable riding on roadways.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,

John Bolduc – 8 Joan Circle, Manchester CT 06040